



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman
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384 Votes to Empower Parents, Leave the Status Quo Behind

The House yesterday passed, by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 384-45, President George W. Bush's *No Child Left Behind* bill to overhaul the federal government's role in education.

"I commend the House of Representatives for taking a giant step toward improving America's public schools," President Bush said following the vote. "The education reforms adopted today build on the principles of accountability, flexibility, local control, and greater choices for parents."

"The House of Representatives has passed a bipartisan bill that advances each of the four pillars of the President's plan, and in doing so, its members have done a great service for America's children," Education Secretary Rod Paige said.

Only 34 House Republicans voted against H.R. 1. By comparison, nearly twice that number voted against the Student Results Act (H.R. 2), which called for greater accountability and flexibility in public education, on Oct. 21, 1999.

The *No Child Left Behind* plan represents the most significant change in federal education policy since 1965, and yesterday's strong bipartisan vote marks the beginning of the end of the status quo.

Message of the Day

Yesterday's 384-45 vote in the House was a marked repudiation of the status quo. The most significant change in federal education policy in 35 years is at hand.

- *H.R. 1 holds states accountable for improving student achievement for the first time since the federal government became involved in education.*
- *The bill provides dramatic flexibility to local school districts.*
- *H.R. 1 gives unprecedented new options to parents, including public school choice and private supplemental services.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- H.R. 1 allows up to 100 school districts in 50 states to enter into five-year performance agreements with the Education Secretary that allow them to **waive federal program requirements** but holds them accountable for improving student achievement.
- The bill eliminates or consolidates 34 federal ESEA programs out of a total of 66, thereby streamlining more than 50 percent of the federal K-12 bureaucracy.
- H.R. 1 provides immediate public school choice to parents of children in failing schools.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"On his second day in office, President Bush laid out his four pillars of comprehensive education reform: accountability, local control and flexibility, expanded parental choice, and doing what works. H.R. 1 makes unprecedented advances in all four areas, and it answers the fundamental question of how we can create an education system that will leave no child behind." **Education Secretary Rod Paige, May 23, 2001**